

NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

The Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) Board of Trustees recognizes that childhood obesity has reached epidemic levels in Washington and throughout the country. Overweight children are at a higher risk for developing severe long-term health problems, and overweight children are affected by discrimination, psychological stress, and low self-esteem. However, research indicates that obesity and subsequent diseases are largely preventable through diet and regular physical activity. Research also indicates that becoming physically active and maintaining a regular physical activity program significantly reduces the risk of some obesity and some cancers, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

Children who eat well-balanced meals and are healthy are more likely to learn in the classroom. The board supports increased emphasis on nutrition as well as physical activity at all grade levels to enhance the well-being of WSD's youth. Therefore, it is the policy of the board to:

- Provide students access to nutritious food;
- Provide opportunities for physical activity and developmentally appropriate exercise; and
- Provide accurate information related to these topics.

The superintendent shall develop and implement a comprehensive school-wide nutrition program consistent with state and federal requirements for schools sponsoring the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. To implement the program, the superintendent shall adopt and implement a comprehensive curriculum on health, fitness and nutrition consistent with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs). The curriculum will provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate instruction for grades K-12. The input of staff, students, parents and public health professions in the development of the curriculum is encouraged.

Nutrition, health and fitness topics shall be integrated within the sequential, comprehensive health education curriculum taught at every grade level, kindergarten through grade 12, and coordinated with the district's nutrition and food services operation.

WSD shall take a proactive effort to encourage students to make nutritious food choices. The superintendent shall ensure that:

- A variety of healthy food choices are available whenever food is sold or served on district property or at district-sponsored events;
- Schools shall regulate the sale or serving of foods or snacks high in fat, sodium or added sugars; and
- Nutritious meals served by the school nutrition and food services operation complies with state and federal law.

Nutrition

Nutrition Standards

WSD shall provide school breakfasts and lunches which meet the nutritional standards required by state and federal school breakfast and lunch programs. Meals served in school before the end of the last lunch period shall conform to the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

The superintendent shall establish rules for the sale of food during the school day to encourage the eating of nutritious breakfasts and lunches. Foods and beverages of minimal nutritional value, as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shall not be sold or served on school premises until 30 minutes after the end of the last lunch period.

Any food sales of an occasional nature must have the prior approval of the principal. Vending machines shall be limited to only those that dispense items which are nutritionally healthful. No food or drink items shall be offered in vending machines unless they have been approved by the principal.

Food Services Program

WSD supports the philosophy of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and shall provide wholesome and nutritious meals for children in the district's schools. The board authorizes the superintendent to administer the food services program, provided that any decision to enter into a contract with a private food service agency shall require the approval of the board. Expenditures for food supplies shall not exceed the estimated revenues.

Because of the potential liability of the district, the food services program shall not accept donations of food other than as provided in this policy without the expressed approval of the board. Should the board approve a food donation, the superintendent shall establish inspection and handling procedures for the food and determine that the provisions of all state and local laws have been met before selling the food as part of the school lunch menu.

Free And Reduced-Price Food Services

WSD shall provide free and reduced-price breakfasts, lunches and milk to students according to the terms of the National School Lunch and Breakfast programs and the laws and rules of the state. WSD shall inform parents of the

eligibility standards for free or reduced price meals. Reasonable efforts shall be made to protect the identity of students receiving such meals. A parent has the right to appeal any decision with respect to his/her application for free or reduced-price food services to the superintendent.

WSD may provide free, nutritious meals to all children on test days, including students who do not qualify for free or reduced priced federal school meal benefits, however, WSD is responsible for the cost of providing meals to students who are ineligible for free and reduced priced meals.

The board of trustees may establish a program whereby school meals may be provided to anyone other than students of the WSD at the greatest price charged any student plus an amount representing the portion of the lunch cost paid for from local, state and federal assistance (cash and food).

Surplus Commodities

WSD shall use food commodities made available under the Federal Food Commodity Program for school menus.

Physical Education

Health and Fitness Curriculum

The superintendent shall adopt and implement a comprehensive health and fitness curriculum consistent with the EALRs. The curriculum will provide opportunities for developmentally appropriate instruction for grades K-12. Evaluation procedures will utilize classroom-based assessments or other strategies and will be in place by the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

All students in grades one through eight are required to complete an average of one hundred instructional minutes per week of physical education. This includes instruction and practice in basic movement and fine motor skills, progressive physical fitness, and wellness activities through age-appropriate activities. All high school students are required to complete two credits of health and fitness. The district encourages all high schools to offer a variety of health and fitness classes for each grade in the high school.

Suitable adapted physical education shall be included as part of individual education plans for students with chronic health problems, other disabling conditions, or other special needs that preclude such student's participation in regular physical education instruction or activities.

In addition to required physical education, students at the elementary level should have the opportunity to participate in daily recess and physical activity. WSD shall provide daily recess period(s) for elementary school students, featuring time for unstructured but supervised active play. WSD is encouraged to provide adequate co-curricular physical activity programs, including fully inclusive intramural

programs and physical activity clubs; and to promote the use of school facilities for physical activity programs offered by the school and/or community-based organizations outside of school hours.

Legal References:

RCW 28A.230.040 Physical Education - Grades 1-8
RCW 28A.230.050 Physical Education in High School
RCW 28A.235 Surplus or Donated Food Commodities for School Hot Lunch Programs
RCW 28A.235.120 Lunchrooms - Establishment and operation - Personnel for - Agreement for
RCW 28A.235.130 Milk for children at school expense
RCW 28A.623.020 Nonprofit meal program for elderly - Authorized – Restrictions
RCW 69.04 Food, Drugs, Cosmetics, and Poisons
RCW 69.06.010 Food service worker permit
RCW 69.06.020 Permit exclusive and valid throughout state - Fee
RCW 69.06.030 Diseased persons - May not work - Employer may not hire
RCW 69.06.050 Permit to be secured within fourteen days from time of employment.
RCW 69.06.070 Limited duty permit

WAC 180-50-135 Physical Education - Grade school and high school requirement.
WAC 180-51-085 Physical Education Requirement-Excuse

7 CFR, Parts 210 and 220
7 CFR, Part 245.5

Adoption: 06/16/05